

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An ~~audio~~ dispensing valve for a beverage dispenser, comprising:

a valve for regulating beverage fluid flow through the ~~audio~~ dispensing valve;

a switch in operative engagement with the valve for selectively activating the valve; and

an audio unit, comprising:

a sonic generator assembly for providing audible information therefrom, and

a sensor linked with the sonic generator assembly and with the switch, wherein the sensor activates the sonic generator assembly responsive to the switch activating the valve.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~audio~~ dispensing valve according to claim 1 wherein the sonic generator assembly is activated and deactivated in cooperative engagement with sensor ~~deactivates the sonic generator assembly responsive to the switch as the switch selectively activates the valve deactivating the valve.~~

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The ~~audio~~ dispensing valve according to claim 1 3 wherein the sonic generator assembly comprises:

an audio message memory unit for storing an audio message;

an audio control logic unit linked with the sensor and the audio message memory unit for receiving an activation signal from the sensor and generating an acoustic signal thereof; and

an acoustic signal emitter linked with the audio control logic unit for projecting the acoustic signal from the ~~audio~~ dispensing valve.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The ~~audio~~ dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio control logic unit retrieves the audio message from the audio message memory unit and places the audio message in a recognizable format for the acoustic signal emitter.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The ~~audio~~ dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the acoustic signal emitter comprises:

an audio amplifier electrically linked with the audio control logic unit for receiving the acoustic signal from the audio control logic unit; and
a loudspeaker electrically linked with the audio amplifier, whereby the audio amplifier provides sufficient power to the acoustic signal to drive the loudspeaker so that the acoustic signal is projected from the ~~audio~~ dispensing valve.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ~~audio~~ dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio unit further comprises a volume adjustment linked with the sonic generator assembly for adjusting output volume of the acoustic signal projected from the ~~audio~~ dispensing valve.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for providing audible information from ~~an audio~~ a dispensing valve, comprising:

providing a valve for regulating beverage fluid flow through the dispensing valve;

providing a switch in operative engagement with the valve for selectively activating the valve;

providing an audio unit, comprising:

a sonic generator assembly for providing audible information therefrom, and

a sensor linked with the sonic generator assembly and with the switch;

storing an audio message containing audible information within the sonic generator ~~an audio unit~~;

~~linking the audio unit with a switch;~~

activating the ~~audio unit~~ sonic generator assembly responsive to the sensor sensing activation of
~~with the switch~~ as the switch selectively activates the valve;

generating an acoustic signal with the sonic generator assembly ~~audio unit~~; and

projecting the acoustic signal from the ~~audio~~ dispensing valve via the sonic generator assembly.
~~audio unit; and~~

~~linking a volume adjustment with the audio unit for adjusting output volume of the acoustic~~

~~signal projected from the audio unit.~~

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): The ~~audio~~ dispensing valve according to claim 4 wherein the audio control logic unit is activated and deactivated in cooperative engagement with the switch as the switch selectively activates the valve ~~ceases generating an acoustic signal responsive to a deactivation signal received from the sensor.~~

Claim 11 (new): The method for providing audible information from a dispensing valve, further comprising linking a volume adjustment with the audio unit for adjusting output volume of the acoustic signal projected from the audio unit.